

Public Water Systems Drinking Water Awards – 2001

In The Main – Summer 2001, By Isabel Ramirez

The City of Leominster hosted the 10th Annual Drinking Water Day on May 10th. This is a special day for public water systems (PWS) that compete for top awards based on compliance with regulations and a host of voluntary activities promoting safe drinking water. DEP designed the awards program to encourage PWS to take the lead in water protection, conservation, educational outreach, and capacity development. We salute all the public water systems that competed for the 2000 awards. Names are listed in order of score achieved for that category.

Non-transient non-community system

Carver High School

20. Pembroke DPW Water Division

21. Holliston Water Department

Small community systems

1. Groton Water Department
2. Springdale Farms Water Supply Trust
3. Wilkinsonville Water District
4. Essex Water Department
5. Tisbury Water Works

Best overall

The best overall award was given to Centerville Osterville Marstons Mills Water Department (COMM) in Barnstable. COMM received the highest combined score for the last two years. It was outstanding in water management, consumer outreach, education, administrative capacity, source protection and conservation. According to Superintendent Craig Crocker, "Our goal is to reach for excellence through education and communication with our community and within our organization."

Consecutive systems

1. Wilbraham Water Department
2. Boston Water and Sewer Commission
3. Lynnfield Water District

Medium & large community systems

1. Westford Water Department
2. Acton Water Supply District
3. Centerville Osterville Marston Mills Water Department
4. Foxborough Water Department
5. Swansea Water District
6. Milford Water Company
7. Sharon Water Department
8. Lynn Water & Sewer Commission
9. Avon Water Department
10. Orleans Water Department
11. Chatham Water Department
12. Norwell Water Department
13. Easton Water Division
14. Provincetown Water Department
15. Orange Water Department
16. Concord Water Department
17. Mattapoisett Water Department
18. Seekonk Water District
19. Mansfield Water Department

Most improved system

The Provincetown Water Department received the most improved system award for its efforts during the last year. Not only did they decrease their unaccounted- for water use, they installed a state-of- the-art system to monitor overpumping during peak summer periods. Provincetown is using new approaches to managing their sole source aquifer that is shared with Truro and the Cape Cod National Seashore. According to Superintendent Craig Wiegand, "our water main replacement, leak detection program, and ongoing outreach to businesses and schools helped reduce water use. Our businesses have shown overwhelming support in distributing

placards and conservation tips in motels, restaurants, and guest houses."

Source protection

1. Cambridge Water Department
2. Lynn Water and Sewer Commission
3. Foxborough Water Department
4. Pembroke Water Division

Environmental education awards

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) presented two awards to teachers for creative drinking water activities.

1. Demil Kovacevic, Butterfield Elementary School, Orange, MA; and
2. Jeff White, Dighton Elementary School, Dighton, MA.

Business awards

EPA and the New England Water Works Association presented two awards to businesses that promote drinking water protection and/or conservation.

1. Foxborough Realty Associates, LLC,/ Foxborough Water & Sewer Dept; and
2. Acushnet Rubber Company/New Bedford Water Department.

Source protection awards

In The Main – Summer 2001, By Catherine Sarafinas

The DWP granted four awards for outstanding achievements in source protection. Winners are highlighted below.

Cambridge Water Department . Salutes to Watershed Manager Chip Norton, and Superintendent Sam Corda. The Department was a key player in developing the Master Plan for the Fresh Pond Reservation and protecting 165 acres of open space. The primary focus of the Plan is to protect the water quality of Fresh Pond. This accomplishment shows that open space planning and source water protection do go together.

Lynn Water and Sewer Commission.

Salutes to Richard Dawe, Superintendent, for actively pursuing source protection. In 2000, the Commission established the Lynn Watershed Protection Team with members from the commission, watershed groups, businesses, and local and state agencies. The Team celebrated Earthday 2000 by co-sponsoring a highly successful water supply clean-up with the North Shore Community College and local businesses. It is currently working on strategies for land acquisition, community education, and a surface water supply protection plan.

Foxborough Water Department. The Foxborough Water Department has a proactive approach to source protection and an established wellhead protection program. The Department is commended for pioneering a water reuse plan for the protection and preservation of its drinking water supplies. Foxborough's approval of the Patriot Stadium and Economic Development Area presented the Town with the challenge of providing an additional 24 million gallons of water annually. The Department established a cooperative agreement with the Kraft Group (CMGI Field/Patriots), conducted numerous public meetings, and fostered the support and understanding for the plan's approval. Salutes to Warren McKay, former Superintendent, and Joan Sozio, Water Commissioner for their leadership.

Pembroke Water Division. Salutes to Superintendent Mike Valenti for coordinating source protection efforts with local committees and watershed communities. Initial work in 1999 with the Open Space and Conservation Committees led to land acquisition strategies and discussions with other PWS. This resulted in the purchase of 200 acres of land (two million dollars) to protect drinking water sources in Brockton, Abington, Rockland, Kingston, and Pembroke.